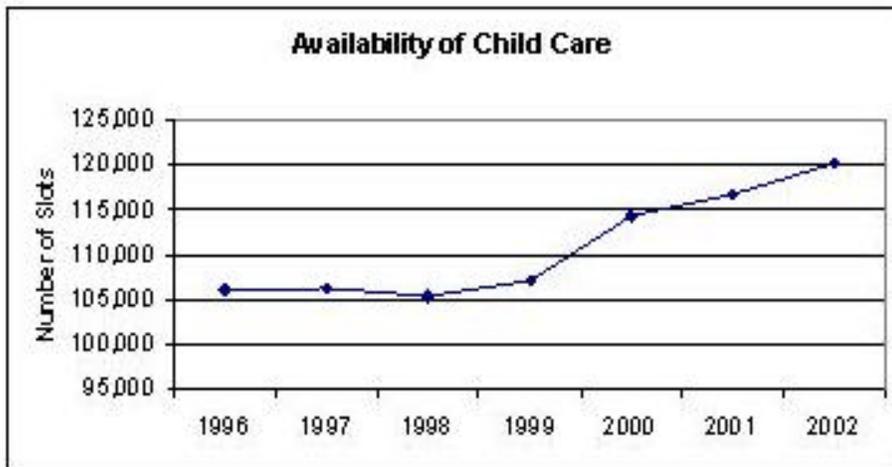


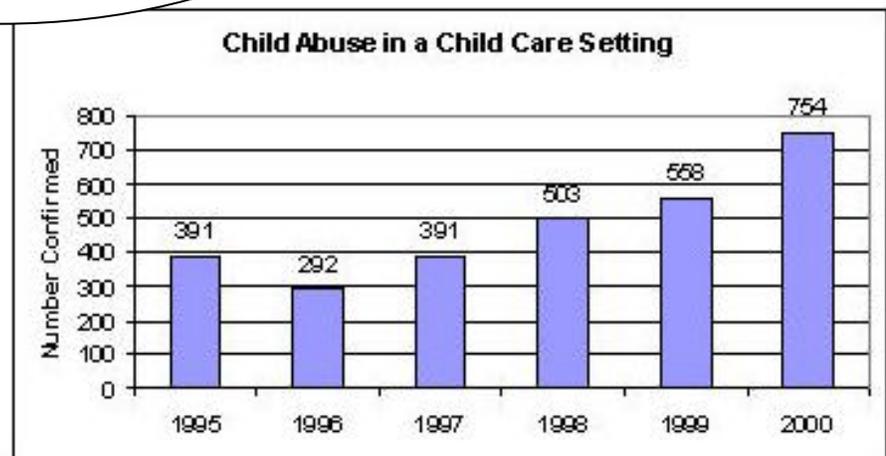
# Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments

Research shows that high quality child care environments are positively related to children's later language, math, and behavior skills. Empowerment early childhood funds are targeted for specific quality enhancement activities. Technical assistance through training and mentoring helps child care providers deliver better care and education. Through Community Empowerment efforts, the numbers of centers, teachers, and family child care providers who participate in quality improvement activities have increased.



- Iowa ranks 2nd in the nation with the number of young children of working parents in child care - 79% of the children under 6 years of age
- More than 188,000 children under the age of 4 need child care
- More than 5000 home child care providers are registered; it is estimated there are three times as many non-registered providers
- The new child development home legislation focuses on improved quality, safety and flexibility for registered providers

Source: Child Care Home Regulation Work Group





# Progress Towards Results from Community Empowerment Areas

## Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments

### Story County Empowerment Area

**Local Identified Need/priority:** Provide affordable, quality and accessible early childhood experiences, including child and infant care.

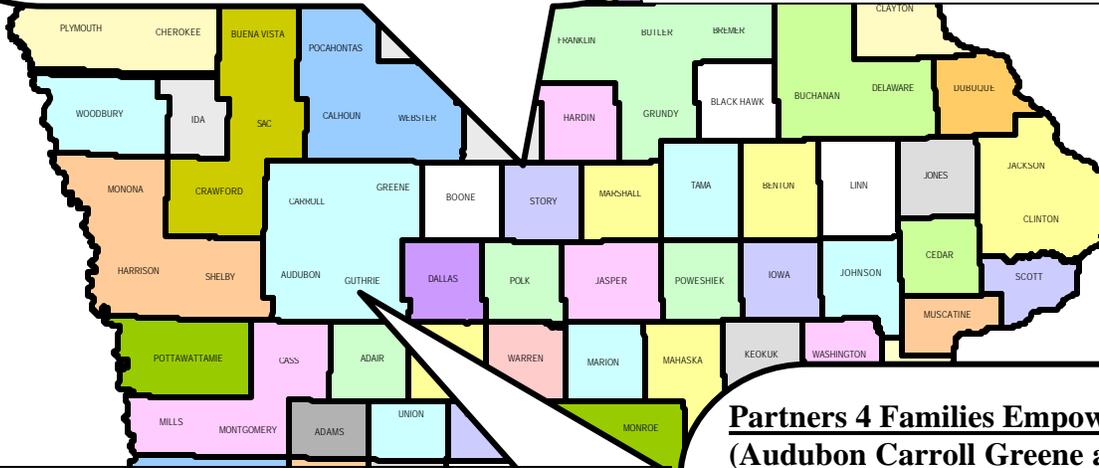
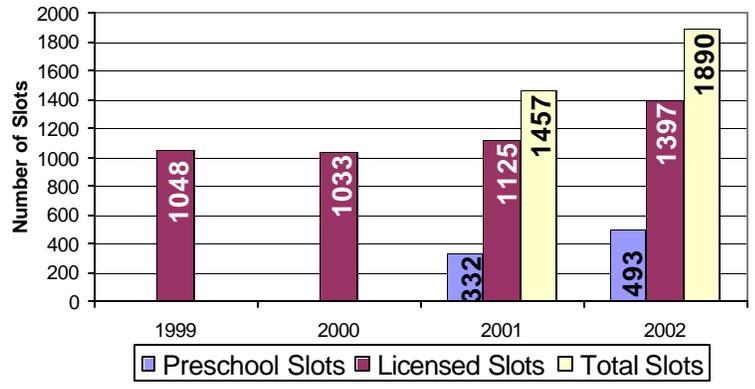
**Goal:** Increase the number of licensed child care centers and preschool programs..

**Local Indicator Program or Performance Measure:**

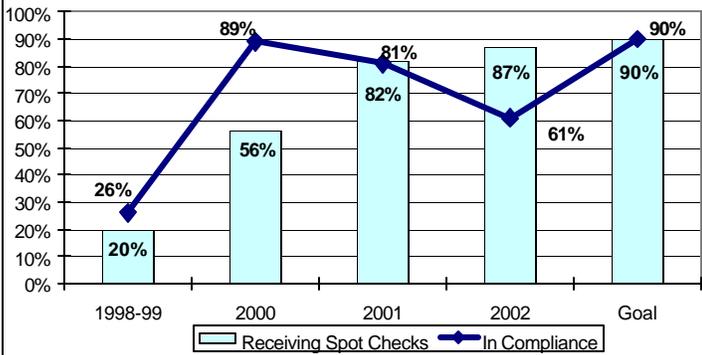
- Number of licensed child care centers slots
- Number of licensed preschools slots

**Strategy(ies):** Infant Care Network (recruitment and mentoring infant care workers), child care assistance programs to allow child care providers to not lose funding due to parents inability to pay for already provided services, additional preschool scholarship slots in Nevada, Story City, and McCallsburg for low-income children, wraparound child care services for preschool programming that met during the middle of the day, and a crisis respite child care program for emergency child care needs to families in Story County. Since 1999 there has been a 33% increase in childcare center slots and a 50% increase in preschool slots.

**Availability of Licensed Child Care and Preschool (Story County)**



**Child Care Quality Checks and Compliance Rates (Partners 4 Families)**



### Partners 4 Families Empowerment Area

#### (Audubon Carroll Greene and Guthrie Counties)

**Local Identified Need/priority:** Increase the quality, availability and accessibility of childcare.

**Goal:** 90% of registered childcare providers in compliance with DHS regulations.

**Local Indicator or Performance Measure:**

% of registered child care providers receiving unannounced spot checks

% of child care providers in compliance with DHS regulations

**Strategy(ies):** The Partnerships 4 Families Child Care Project employees a full time Child Care Social Worker who performs unannounced spot checks to all registered child care providers and a Child Care Home Consultant who provides technical assistance to all providers. The Child Care Social Worker works closely with the Child Care Home Consultant who works with child care home providers prior to registration. The Child Care Social Worker and Child Care Home Consultant educate and review state requirements with providers. They offer on going technical assistance through home visits, spot checks, mailings and phone calls. The ultimate goal is to promote quality early childhood care in the four county area.